



UZBEKISTAN PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

United States Agency for International Development Central Asia Region

ENTERPRISE AND TRADE	Implementing Partners
<p>Small & Medium Agribusiness Support & Microfinance: USAID is establishing local legally registered and operating microfinance institutions in Uzbekistan that will provide group micro-loans that help entrepreneurs and farmers gain greater opportunities to grow their businesses and improve their quality of life. New sources of capital will improve the environment for SME growth, while providing entrepreneurs with greater opportunities to grow their businesses and improve their quality of life. USAID provides business training to assist entrepreneurs, including agribusinesses, with planning, accounting, marketing and other aspects of successful business development. As part of USAID's Cooperation Agreement with MASHAV, Agriculture Consulting Centers deliver a wide range of technical assistance and consulting services devoted to developing agribusiness. A pilot project using tree plantings for the purpose of biological subsoil drainage and the creation of a commercial lumber industry. Demonstrations will address the problem of soil productivity loss due to the dual problems of waterlogging and soil salinity in Uzbekistan's Ferghana Valley.</p>	<p>Pragma, PA Consulting, MASHAV, ACDI/VOCA</p>
<p>SME Support & Business Education: USAID is providing increased opportunities to access business and economic information. Through Enterprise Development Centers (EDC) in Tashkent and Ferghana City, USAID's SME Development project is delivering a comprehensive package of information, technical assistance, and business training and advisory services to entrepreneurs and business managers. Work with accounting reform, advocacy groups, and professional associations continues to improve the SME environment by promoting greater transparency and accountability. In partnership with a Central Asian regional accounting federation, USAID is supporting a training, examination and certification program that complies with international standards of accounting and audit. A new Regional Trade Promotion activity is facilitating regional trade through an internet-based regional trade network. The USAID-supported Small Enterprise Assistance Fund is providing equity, term-debt, and lease financing that gives entrepreneurs access to investment capital to operate and expand their businesses. Finally, USAID's Resource Network for Economics and Business Education (EdNet) is offering college students greater access to information and opportunities to succeed in the free market by training professors in economics and business education, as well as making available teaching materials, and providing research opportunities and scholarships.</p>	<p>Pragma, Carana, MBA-EC, MASHAV, KIMEP</p>
DEMOCRATIC CULTURE & INSTITUTIONS	Implementing Partners
<p>Civic Organizations: USAID supports the development of the NGO sector in Uzbekistan broadly by funding the establishment of a network of Civil Society Support Centers (CSSCs) – NGOs that will become localized, sustainable nodes of support for other NGOs. This strengthens the support infrastructure available to NGOs, leading to an increase in the professionalism, sustainability and impact of both incipient and mature NGOs. USAID also supports the empowerment of NGOs in targeted areas, such as the legal, gender, human rights, and environmental sectors. Special attention is given to promoting advocacy and organizing grassroots efforts to implement positive change in local communities. USAID also supports NGO participation in the preparation of legal and regulatory frameworks affecting NGO operations and resource centers serving NGOs outside major cities. Freedom House provides advocacy skills to both registered and non-registered human rights groups throughout the country.</p>	<p>Counterpart Consortium, Winrock Intl., ABA/CEELI, ISAR, Freedom House</p>
<p>Media & Information: USAID supports non-governmental television stations and a weekly news exchange program. Activities include seminars and limited equipment donations, plus training manuals on station management, advertising production, advertising sales, investigative journalism, journalist's rights, and radio management and journalism. USAID promotes NGO roundtables and seminars, libraries/information centers and civic initiative planning at the local level. USAID also supports the Women's Legal Literacy (WILL) Project, citizen training on women's legal rights, and crisis centers and NGO seed grants. As part of the WILL Project, USAID has provided much needed legal information and leadership training to women in rural areas.</p>	<p>Internews, Winrock Intl., ABA/CEELI, PAS</p>
<p>Political Process: To foster an independent judiciary and legal profession and to further judicial and legal reform, USAID supports continuing legal education and judicial and legal associations strengthening. USAID supports social partnerships that encourage NGOs, private businesses, and local governments/mahallas to work together on community projects of common interest. Information concerning environmental issues is disseminated through two environmental public advocacy centers (EPACs). ICNL has identified key local and governmental partners to develop adequate NGO legislation and create a sustainable legal environment for NGOs.</p>	<p>ABA/CEELI, ICNL, Counterpart Consortium, Department of Justice</p>

PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

Implementing
Partners

<p>Quality Primary Health Care: USAID is working in primary health care (PHC) in pilot sites in Ferghana Oblast and providing limited technical assistance in finance and management in SyrDarya and Navoi Oblasts. USAID is increasing the scope of PHC services available in maternal and child health and infectious disease, and improving health care quality for consumers. Quality initiatives include pilots to improve reproductive health and postpartum care, and appropriate prescription of drugs. USAID supports mass media campaigns and development of health promotion materials for use by PHC clinics, to better inform people how to stay healthy. USAID is strengthening health sector NGO capacity through organizational development assistance. NGOs are also increasing their skills to serve people. Entire communities are benefiting from innovative education on anemia, breastfeeding, and children's health. To better finance and promote competition and efficiency, USAID is designing and implementing incentive-based provider payment methods and developing management and health information systems to improve financial and management decision-making. USAID is planning a second nation-wide survey of the population's health status.</p>	<p>Abt Associates/ Zdrav Plus, Counterpart Consortium, MACRO International, PRIME</p>
<p>Health Partnerships: USAID supports the development of primary health care partnerships in the areas of emergency care and community nursing. USAID is working at the national level and in a pilot site in the Ferghana Oblast. The emergency care partnership between Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia and the Ferghana Oblast Center for Emergency Medicine utilizes the practical expertise from U.S. health providers to upgrade the quality of urgent medical care in the Ferghana Oblast health system. The partnership is developing a model regional urgent care system that can be replicated nationally; delivers specialized training programs in urgent care for primary care health professionals; develops and implements the programs at the community level focused on public health promotion, public response to emergencies and accident prevention. This partnership also offers exchanges and training seminars. A nursing partnership has been developed between the Uzbekistan Ministry of Health, USAID and MASHAV in which groups of primary health care nurses are intensively trained in community nursing for one month in Israel and, on return, supported to expand their roles, particularly in health education.</p>	<p>AIHA, MASHAV</p>
<p>Infectious Disease Control: USAID continues to provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Health in implementing the WHO-recommended Directly Observed Therapy, Short Course (DOTS) strategy for tuberculosis (TB) control in five initial pilot sites (National TB Research Institute, Tashkent City TB Dispensary, Urgut Rayon TB Dispensary, Ferghana Rayon TB Dispensary and Syr Darya Rayon TB Dispensary). Five additional sites (Ferghana City, Andizhan City, Namangan City, Yangier City, Samarkand City) have been chosen and implementation started. The activity focuses on conducting clinical and laboratory DOTS training in all of these facilities with monitoring and evaluation to follow. In addition, laboratory equipment and anti-TB drugs have been provided. USAID provides training in quality control of laboratory diagnosis and use of EpiNet software, which allows for better analysis of TB statistics. To strengthen the capacity of the Infectious Disease Reference Laboratory, USAID has provided additional supplies and helped to improve management of laboratory operations in 52 infectious disease laboratories throughout the country.</p>	<p>CDC, Project HOPE, RPM Plus Project</p>
<p>HIV/AIDS Control & Prevention: USAID/CAR is initiating an extensive program of activities to control and prevent the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Central Asia. An important part of the USAID/CAR strategy includes a new collaborative effort with the Open Society Institute (Soros Foundation) to extend programs for those groups most vulnerable to the epidemic: intravenous drug users, commercial sex workers and prisoners. USAID and CDC have begun research and training in HIV/AIDS surveillance. USAID has started activities on HIV/AIDS prevention, which included a study tour for government officials to a model Harm Reduction site in Vilnius, Lithuania; Central Asian Condom Social Marketing Assessment and Workshop; and the Central Asian Initiative Conference on the Prevention of HIV/AIDS/STIs. A document highlighting USAID's strategy on HIV/AIDS prevention in Central Asia has been published. A condom social marketing program will be initiated in the high risk regions of Tashkent, Ferghana and Samarkand oblasts, the likely epicenters of the epidemic. USAID has also conducted site assessments of Surkhandarya Oblast and Karakalpakstan. In cognizance of the direct link between the growing levels of intravenous drug use in Uzbekistan and HIV transmission, USAID will develop model drug abuse prevention, treatment and rehabilitation strategies to limit both the spread of drug abuse, as well as the spread of infectious diseases by through this pathway, focusing on youth and other high risk groups. Not only AIDS, but tuberculosis and other infectious diseases will be covered by the USAID initiative.</p>	<p>Soros Foundation, PSI, CDC</p>
<p>New Initiatives: In the wake of the September 11 tragedy, USAID/CAR has begun to develop a new program that will build on previous successes in reproductive and maternal and children's health. The new effort will focus on establishing integrated RH services and recruiting existing capacity to improve delivery outcomes. Also, USAID will work together with the other agencies on a new "Health Generation" initiative that will feature a sports, health and education program (SHEP) in the Ferghana valley. The Healthy Generation initiative will offer secondary school students a combination of sports and educational venues stressing health and anti-drug and drug trafficking messages. The initiative will also develop the framework for active PTA involvement in a student-based health campaign.</p>	<p>CDC, PSI, OSI, TBA</p>

ENERGY & WATER MANAGEMENT

Implementing
Partners

Natural Resource Management: USAID is helping improve access to information, knowledge and skills so that energy and water specialists can more effectively manage natural resources, particularly transboundary and local water resources. USAID supports region-wide cooperation in water and related energy issues, including a recent initiative that, for the first time, works to help the Central Asian republics consider energy and water issues jointly instead of treating them separately. Strengthened data collection and communication systems with the national hydromets are promoting national and regional information sharing that is needed to help water managers make more informed decisions on water distribution, enhance the forecasting of annual snowmelt and related river flows, and improve regional and national-level water planning. USAID also works with the regional river basin authorities (BVOs) in Uzbekistan. Activities include the automatization of control structures and the development of decision-support systems. As the result of recent additional USG support for Uzbekistan, USAID is currently beginning the implementation of five new water activities in the country. They are directed at extending modern water management technologies to new regions, rehabilitating selected irrigation systems, further enhancing hydromet capabilities, and assisting the Government of Uzbekistan in supporting the creation and operation of water user associations in five regions. Additionally, technical assistance and equipment will also be directed at improving potable water supply and/or delivery in Karakalpakstan. In all these activities, USAID provides associated training to enhance human resources capacity in every aspect of water resources management. USAID is coordinating closely with the World Bank and other international donors in these efforts by providing assistance with equipment installation required to place systems into operation. In cooperation with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), USAID helps sponsor courses at a regional Water Training Center in Tashkent, which provides intensive training courses for water policymakers throughout Central Asia.

PA Consulting,
Winrock
International,
Development
Alternatives Inc.,
MASHAV

Public Commitment: USAID is working to build public interest in and commitment to water management reform through public awareness activities, as well as practical assistance efforts, such as key demonstration models. Pilot demonstration projects support policy changes necessary to improve water management, especially of water used for irrigation. Pilots also demonstrate the viability of selected concepts and technologies that improve management of energy and water resources. The goal is to influence and promote policy and regulatory framework reforms. In Uzbekistan, these include the use of agri-forestry techniques to biologically drain waterlogged soils in the Ferghana Valley and provide commercially valuable lumber. Assistance to improve water management of the Paktaabad canal, a main canal used for irrigation, residents, and industry includes minor civil works; communications; training; and monitoring, planning, and allocating water resources within the canal system. Another pilot project in improved flow measurement, control and communications is located on one of the main barrages of the Syr Darya and Amu Darya rivers. An on-farm water management program will be managed by end users and integrated into the larger water allocation decision-making process. The regional effort on transboundary and related cooperation promotes best management practices, regional water and energy data storing, and the development of international agreements that meet international standards in order to reduce tensions over shared water resources.

PA Consulting

SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES

Implementing
Partners

The **Conflict Mitigation Initiative**, which includes the Peaceful Communities Initiative (PCI) and the Community Action Investment Program (CAIP), promotes public dialogue, improves management of transboundary water resources and public health facilities, and increases education and other opportunities for youth. Focusing on the Ferghana Valley and Sukhondaryo province, this initiative will continue to utilize community participatory processes to help identify sources of conflict, prioritize investments in social infrastructure improvements, create several thousand new short-term and sustainable jobs (the majority of which will be for youth), and improve social services through new and repaired infrastructure.

Mercy Corps,
CHF

Youth & Education: USAID's crosscutting objective in youth and programs in education directly contributes to its sector strategic objectives. In Uzbekistan, programs are underway to utilize a large GDA computer donation to build computer capabilities in secondary schools and to improve students' health education through special sports activities. Business education and training is a key component of USAID/CAR's enterprise objective across the region (see section on Business Support & Education above). The new Community Action Investment Program also involves considerable primary school renovation and equipment. USAID's Peaceful Communities Initiative (PCI) supports the Ferghana Valley Youth Basketball League, which has garnered much publicity and support through the tournaments they have held. At present, there are four teams of 15-16 year-olds who represent an ethnic mix that includes Uzbeks, Tatars, Kyrgyz, Tajiks, Turks and Russians. USAID's community-based Health Education and Sports activity sponsors Cross-Border Game Days, which bring together soccer teams from each of the Central Asian republics to compete against one another. The aim is to use sports as a vehicle to bring neighbors together, promote healthy life styles and advocate against drug use. USAID will address on a more comprehensive basis the deterioration of education in Central Asia and is modifying its crosscutting objective into a new special objective to improve basic education, particularly in Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. In Uzbekistan, the program will supplement a new Asian Development Bank (ADB) educational sector loan with demonstration efforts in one oblast.

Mercy Corps,
Abt Associates,
Soros Foundation
OSI

Eurasia Foundation makes small grants on an ongoing basis, oriented to support the transition from centrally-planned to market economies. The grants support innovative private enterprise development through increased access to capital and information. They also support local governance, improved public administration, and the growth of civil society

Eurasia Foundation

Participant Training & Exchanges: Training and exchanges remain a critical element for accomplishing USAID/CAR's overall strategic goals, and participants are carefully selected to support and complement USAID's broader portfolio and objectives. The training program is highly flexible and includes workshops, on-the-job training, observation, study tours and conferences and generates new ideas from participants on improving practices in their own countries. Training and exchanges have enabled participants to positively influence

AED

practices in Uzbekistan by exposing them to international practices through in-country, third country and U.S.-based programs. Annually, over 5,000 Uzbekistani decision-makers, professionals and active citizens, half of whom are women, are trained through its various activities. Participants and their colleagues have access to a resource center with computers, fax, photocopier and e-mail facilities.	
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Glossary of Acronyms:

ABA/CEELI:	American Bar Association/Central and East European Law Initiative
AED:	Academy for Educational Development
AIHA:	American International Health Alliance
CDC:	The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CHF:	Cooperative Housing Foundation
HOPE:	Health Opportunity for People Everywhere
ICNL:	International Center for Not-for-Profit Law
ICMA:	International City/County Management Association
IFES:	International Foundation for Election Systems
MASHAV:	Israeli Development Agency
MBA-EC:	MBA Enterprise Corps
PAS:	Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy
PSI:	Population Services International
RPM:	Rational Pharmaceutical Management
WHO:	World Health Organization